

National Science Foundation

§ 683.44

(c) *What constitutes campaigning.* You “campaign” when you:

- (1) Actively participate in management of a campaign;
- (2) Initiate nominating petitions or canvass for signatures on nominating petitions;
- (3) Endorse or oppose a candidate or a position through political advertisements, broadcasts, campaign literature, or the like;
- (4) Speak at rallies, candidate nights, party caucuses, or other political gatherings;
- (5) Solicit campaign contributions, promote political dinners or similar events, sell tickets for such events, or otherwise participate in campaign fundraising;
- (6) Help to handle campaign finances;
- (7) Distribute campaign material;
- (8) Host a coffee, cocktail party, or buffet for a candidate or a candidate's surrogate;
- (9) Drive voters to the polls;
- (10) Work at the polls as a checker, challenger, pollwatcher, or the like, or
- (11) Do any other work on behalf of a candidate.

(d) *Nonpartisan election duties.* In connection with an election, you may perform nonpartisan duties provided for by law as an election clerk, judge, or the like.

(e) *Appointment to nonelective office.* You may accept appointment to nonelective public office, subject to the same limits that apply to any other outside employment. See subpart C, §§ 683.30 through 683.36.

§ 683.43 Party activities.

You may not take an active part in leading or managing a political party. You do that when you:

- (a) Participate in organizing or reorganizing it;
- (b) Serve as a party officer or as a member of a national, state, or local party committee (or stand as a candidate for such a position);
- (c) Participate in party fundraising or in handling party finances;
- (d) Serve as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a party convention (though you may attend such a convention); or
- (e) Take an active part in conducting or running a meeting, rally, fund-raising function, convention, or other

party gathering (though you may attend such a gathering).

§ 683.44 Political use of official authority or influence.

You must not use your official authority or influence for political purposes. Thus:

(a) You must not use your official position or authority to interfere with an election or to affect the result of an election.

(b) You must not solicit political contributions from other Federal employees, allow your name to appear on any fundraising appeal likely to be sent to Federal employees, or authorize anyone to solicit or receive political contributions in a building where Federal employees work.

(c) You must not discriminate against any other employee because of his or her political opinions or affiliations. This is a “prohibited personnel practice”. See regulations of the Merit Systems Protection Board at 5 CFR 1250.3(b)(3).

PART 684—RULES FOR CONSULTANTS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND OTHER “SPECIAL EMPLOYEES”

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Office of Personnel Management, 5 CFR 735.104.

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Subpart A—General Rules for Consultants, Board Members, and Other “Special Employees”

§ 684.10 “Special employees”.

(a) *Special employees.* Any NSF consultant, National Science Board member, or other temporary or intermittent employee (including a rehired annuitant) who works or is expected to work for the NSF 130 days a year or less is a “special Government employee.” The rules in this subpart apply to you *only* if you are such a “special employee”. Other employees should see parts 680 through 683 of the NSF conflict-of-interests regulations.

(b) *Days worked.* If you have any uncertainty about how many days you work or are expected to work for the NSF, consult an ethics counselor in the Office of the General Counsel. There are specific rules for counting the days, and the rules that apply while you are still employed differ somewhat from those that apply afterward.

§ 684.11 Summary of rules for “special employees”.

(a) This section summarizes the principal conflicts requirements that you are expected to observe as an NSF “special employee”. It references the subsequent provisions of this subpart in which these requirements are elaborated. You are encouraged to read as well §§ 680.10 and 680.12, which introduce the NSF conflict-of-interests regulations and explain their purposes. Members of the National Science Board are committed to observe, besides the requirements summarized here, the special rules of the Board for its members. See subpart B, §§ 684.20 through 684.22.

(b) *NSF work on proposals and awards of others.* (1) If you serve on a panel that reviews proposals or otherwise serve as a peer reviewer, you will be given instructions designed to deal with any conflict of interests you may have.

(2) If you participate in action on proposals and awards as a National Science Board member, see § 684.21.

(3) If you should otherwise become involved with the handling of a proposal of other award-related application you should follow the same rules and procedures on conflicts or potential conflicts in handling proposals and awards as regular NSF employees. They are set out in part 681 of the NSF conflicts regulations, §§ 681.20 through 681.26.

(c) *Financial disclosure* (§ 684.12). (1) If you are compensated at a rate at or above the lowest rate for a GS-16 regular employee and plan to work or actually do work more than sixty days in any calendar year, you must file public Financial Disclosure Reports.

(2) If you are not required to file public Financial Disclosure Reports, you must file a confidential Statement of Financial Interests at the time of your appointment (or reappointment).

(3) You may ask for forms if you need them. Normally, however, they will be provided to you automatically, with instructions.

(d) *Political activity (Hatch Act)* (§ 684.13). The Hatch Act prohibits you from being involved in an election campaign or in political-party activity on any day when you work for the Government.

(e) *Representational restrictions and involvement with proposals and awards during and after NSF service* (§ 684.14). (1) You must never represent any private party in dealings with any Federal official on any proposal, project, or other matter if you have been personally involved with that matter at or for the NSF.

(2) If you have been employed with the NSF more than sixty days a year, you must not represent anyone in dealings with any NSF official during your NSF service and for one year thereafter on any proposal, project, or other matter involving specific parties.

General effect: These restrictions do not preclude you from preparing a proposal for your institution, from serving as principal investigator under an NSF proposal or award, from otherwise working under an NSF award, or from receiving compensation or expenses